

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Reuman (US Patent No. 6,069,982).

By this amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 25 has been added. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 13 through 24 have also been cancelled. Claims 4, 5, 6 have been amended to depend upon new claim 25. Claims 4, 6 and 9 have also been amended to be consistent with the language of new Claim 25. Claim 25 is now the only independent claim in this case.

Claim 25 sets forth a method of estimating noise in a digital image produced by a first scanner from scanning an image recorded on a photographic film having a particular film type. It is an important feature of this invention that a second scanner device is used to accumulate statistical data in a first statistical table prior to capturing the digital image. This statistical data is associated with a particular film type. Thereafter the method uses pixels of the digital image to calculate a second statistical table related to the noise in the digital image. Finally, the first statistical table and the second statistical table are used to provide an updated third statistical table related to the noise associated with the particular film type.

The Examiner has rejected all the claims in the case citing Reuman et al. US Patent No. 6,069,982. Claim 25 is different from Reuman et al. in that Reuman et al. does not combine statistical data derived from different imaging devices. Reuman et al. combines statistics gathered from the same device. Moreover, Reuman is not concerned with and does not teach or suggest that statistics should only be taken from noise associated with a particular film type. When the updated third statistical table is produced as required by claim 25, it has information in it gathered from different imaging devices but all taken from digitized images captured from the same photographic film type. This arrangement is believed to produce a third statistical table that provides improved enhancement of digital images. Moreover this third statistical table is believed to produce a more accurate representation of noise with each update.


In view of the foregoing that claim 25 provides unobvious subject matter and is patentable over Reuman et al. and any of the other art taken singly or in combination.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

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Enclosure

Respectfully submitted,


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